

JIM HENRY LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

AT NEW ORLEANS BAPTIST SEMINARY AND LEAVELL COLLEGE



**Strengthening Ministry Leaders
for the Next Generation of Kingdom Service**



2026 IMPACT REPORT

MISSION

The Jim Henry Leadership Institute Exists to Strengthen Ministry Leaders for the Next Generation of Kingdom Service

Christian Leadership engages a unique discussion in the context of congregations, denominations, and ministry organizations and is an emerging academic discipline at NOBTS and in SBC seminaries. From a biblical and spiritual perspective, leadership centers upon influence - moving people from where they are to where God wants them to be.

The average pastoral tenure in the Southern Baptist Convention is 3.5 to 4 years. Churches struggle to find pastors for their congregations as the dropout rate of pastors increases annually.

Through the Jim Henry Leadership Institute at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, we will provide solutions through research, theological thought, and guidance on influencing present and future ministry leaders to increase pastoral tenure and reduce the pastoral dropout rate.



"The Jim Henry Leadership Institute positions NOBTS to impact strategically the crisis of Pastoral Leadership in the Southern Baptist Convention. The five Strategic Initiatives of the Institute have created synergy in the areas of research, peer-group learning, resource development, and church consultations. Leadership conferences and summits anchor the Institute's stature as a pacesetter in enhancing Pastoral Leadership Skills" - Dr. Reggie Ogea Director of JHLI & Professor of Leadership and Pastoral Ministry

INITIATIVES

The JHLI was formed with the purpose of Increasing Pastor Tenure and Reducing the Pastoral Dropout Rate by engaging in five Strategic Initiatives.

LEADERSHIP CONFERENCES: The JHLI will host an annual Leadership Conference at NOBTS featuring prominent keynote speakers, panel discussions, and breakout sessions for equipping and encouraging current and next generation church leaders.

LEADERSHIP SUMMITS: The JHLI will facilitate Leadership Summits in state conventions, associations, and churches, involving roundtable discussions, peer group interactions, and mentoring sessions.

RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS: The JHLI will utilize NOBTS doctoral students to research critical issues of congregational health, such as pastoral tenure, ministerial wellness, burnout prevention, pastoral transition, and strategic leadership proficiencies. Research Fellowships may provide financial aid of tuition and fees for doctoral students majoring in Christian Leadership.

PUBLISHING: The JHLI will maintain a website highlighting current events, resources for pastors, and research projects. The JHLI will sponsor book projects involving NOBTS faculty and alumni.

CONSULTING: The JHLI will partner with researchers, state conventions, associations, and other ministry organizations to provide consultants upon request.

Prepare Here Pastor's Summit



"The best counsel I ever received was from R.G. Lee, 'Stay on your knees in the pulpit and stay close to the people.' Keep loving your people; sometimes they are hard to love... Tell them you love them. Never leave the pastor's touch; If you love your people, they will never forget it; that's the love of Jesus flowing through you. Stay focused on Jesus. The Lord is my light, my foundation, my strength!" - Dr. Jim Henry, Pastor Emeritus, FBC Orlando, FL

The Jim Henry Leadership Institute held its third annual leadership conference, the **Prepare Here Pastor's Summit**, on October 9-10, 2025, at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

At this year's Prepare Here Pastor's Summit, Baptist state conventions of Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi and Tennessee partnered with the JHLI and NOBTS to fund, plan and facilitate the event for over 60 senior pastors. The five state representatives from the participating conventions played a role in the conference program. The Summit content included 3 Plenary Sessions with the theme of the two-day Summit focused on the **Power of Influence**. The Summit included 5 different Leadership Roundtables, a presentation by the director of the JHLI on current JHLI research and publications, and a panel discussion. For the Summit's final roundtable session, each state convention held a discussion with their own pastors and leaders. During the event, Guidestone representatives offered pastors opportunity to meet one on one.

"This is important work that we do. I've often said that the work that pastors do is the most important work being done on Earth right now because there's only one hope for the world and it is Jesus Christ. Keep preaching and teaching the Gospel. We want to just encourage you to stay strong and persist in this work. That's the hope and the goal of this event."

- Dr. Jamie Dew, President of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary

Leadership Summits



Leadership Summits, hosted by the Jim Henry Leadership Institute, are specialized leadership training and equipping events for pastors, staff, and church leaders, scheduled and held at your ministry location. Leadership Summit topics include:

- Resolving Church Conflict
- Leading Congregational Change
- Becoming a Strategic Leader
- Revitalizing Dysfunctional Churches
- Preventing Leadership Burnout
- Restoring Ministerial Wellness



If you would like to know more about Leadership Summits or request a date to host a Leadership Summit, scan this QR code.

The JHLI hosted the following Leadership Summits in 2025:

1. **Northshore Baptist Association Pastor's Workshop**, *Critical Factors in Increasing Pastoral Tenure*, January 14, 2025, hosted by FBC Mandeville, LA.
2. **LA Baptist Convention Missions and Ministry Team Retreat**, *Defining Strategic Initiatives, Resolving Congregational Conflict, and Critical Factors in Church Revitalization*, February 12-13, 2025, hosted by NOBTS.
3. **LA Baptist Convention Church Conflict Summit**, *Destressing Your Ministry*, August 28, 2025, hosted by LBC, Alexanderia, LA.
4. **Pastors/Wives Wellness Retreat**, *Destressing Your Ministry*, September 12-13, 2025, hosted by Southwest Alabama Baptist Associations.



JHLI Research

The JHLI offers Research Fellowships utilizing NOBTS doctoral students to explore and research identifiable leadership topics: pastoral tenure, ministerial wellness, burnout prevention, pastoral transition, and strategic leadership proficiencies.

Currently, the **Increasing Pastoral Tenure** research project is in its second phase. Phase One identified Nine Critical Factors for Increasing Pastoral Tenure. Phase Two surveyed 264 pastors with a 46% return. The data collection from the surveys will be paired with the 9 critical factors for increasing pastoral tenure and published in 2026. Dr. Abioye Tela is the Research Assistant for this Pastoral Tenure Project. Dr. Tela is expected to graduate in May 2026 with a PhD in Christian Leadership from NOBTS, having previously earned a Doctor of Ministry degree from NOBTS.

Publishing

1. Transforming Churches in Pastoral Transitions will provide a resource to assist Pastor Search Committees, Deacon Chairmen, Key Church Leaders, Associational Missions Strategists, Denominational Church-Minister Relations Organizations, Interim Pastors and Transitional Pastors. Expected availability date: February 2026. Co-authored by Reggie Ogea and Steve Echols.



2. Leadership Longevity: 9 Critical Factors for Increasing Pastoral Tenure will address the critical issue of short pastoral tenure in the Southern Baptist Convention. The result of a two-year JHLI Research Project, this project report will utilize the survey results of 264 pastors to synthesize with the critical factors for increasing pastoral tenure. Expected Availability date: Late 2026. Co-authored by Reggie Ogea and Abioye Tela.

3. Leading From the Front: Pastoral Leadership Competencies for Ministry Excellence will approach pastoral leadership as the development and execution of competencies. Target Audience: Pastors at all levels of church size, but specifically small to medium-sized churches, where pastors function in a single-pastor role; seminary and college students called to pastoral ministry vocations; and faculty in ministry-focused settings who teach and train pastors. Expected availability date: Mid 2027. Reggie Ogea, editor. Multiple authors.

Consulting

The JHLI is involved in the following consultations:

1. The **Bi-Vocational Strategic Initiative** is a partnership between the JHLI, the Alabama State Board of Missions, and the Alabama Baptist Conference of Associational Leaders, to strengthen, encourage, and equip bi-vocational pastors.
2. The **Facing the Future Project**, a 10-year strategic planning process for the Baptist Associations of Southeast LA (BASELA).

2026 Priorities: Annual Funding Requirements

- **Institute Operations:** **\$125,000** annually. Support the Institute's annual operational costs. Budget includes Director's Stipend, Administrative/Support Staff, Travel, Technology, website & APP management, Computer Software, Office Supplies & Equipment, etc.
- **Assist in JHLI Research Projects:** **\$12,000** annually = cost to employ one research assistant. The Research Fellowship initiative employs NOBTS doctoral students to serve as Research Assistants, engaging in critical issues of congregational health in five areas: (1) Pastoral tenure, (2) Ministerial wellness, (3) Burnout prevention, (4) Pastoral transition and (5) Strategic leadership proficiencies.
- **Underwrite Leadership Summits:** **\$20,000** annually. These summits, hosted by State Conventions and/or Associations, target pastors and serve as a strategic catalyst for leadership development, peer-group collaboration, leadership problem-solving and intentional mentoring.
- **Underwrite Book Publishing initiatives:** **\$10,000** = publishing costs for one book.

Long-term Funding Objectives

- **Fully endowed scholarships for Research Fellows.** **\$250,000** per student would fund full tuition and fees for a PhD Student for the duration of their program. (\$50,000 initial gift to begin the scholarship.) The long-term goal is to create five fully-endowed scholarships totaling **\$1,250,000**.
- **Fully endowed Leadership Summits:** **\$400,000**.
- **Fully endowed Institute annual operations:** **\$2,500,000**
- **Fully endowed Faculty Chair:** for a permanent, trustee-approved, eminent scholar whose proven discipline is leadership: **\$2,000,000**

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About Jim Henry



The institute honors the ministry of Jim Henry, an NOBTS graduate and longtime pastor who served as president of the Southern Baptist Convention in 1994 and 1995. Under Henry's leadership from 1977 until 2006, First Baptist Church in Orlando, Florida, grew to a congregation of 10,000 plus members. The church consistently gave sacrificially to the shared work of Southern Baptist through the Cooperative Program. A few years after his retirement from Orlando First, Henry began pastoring again. According to Henry, he was "redeployed" as pastor of Downtown Baptist Church in Orlando from 2015 until 2019.

During his time at NOBTS, Henry pastored churches in Alabama and Mississippi. After his graduation, Henry pastored Two Rivers Baptist Church in Nashville, Tennessee, before accepting the call to FBC Orlando.

Contact Us

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